

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-11. (Cancelled)

Claim 12. (Currently Amended) A wound dressing having opposed outermost backside and bodyside surfaces, the bodyside surface being generally planar and defines the outermost surface on a proximal side of the dressing intended to be directly placed adjacent a wound surface, the dressing comprising:

an absorbent core defining opposed proximal and distal surfaces, the distal surface including a central portion and a border portion;

a liquid impervious, vapor permeable backing layer defining opposed proximal and distal surfaces, a central portion of the proximal surface of the backing layer extending over the distal surface of the absorbent core, and the backing layer defining a border portion extending beyond and surrounding peripheral edges of the absorbent core, the distal surface of the backing layer defining the backside surface of the wound dressing;

a first skin adherent facing layer directly secured only to the proximal surface of the border portion of the backing layer and surrounding the peripheral edges of the absorbent core, a proximal surface of the first facing layer defining a portion of the bodyside surface of the wound dressing; and

a second facing layer directly bonded to and coextensive with the proximal surface of the absorbent core, a proximal surface of the second facing layer defining a portion of the bodyside surface of the wound dressing and ~~being generally co-planar with the proximal surface of the first facing layer~~ border portion of the backing layer carrying the first facing layer, a periphery of the second facing layer being contiguous with a periphery of the first facing layer, the second facing layer defining a grid pattern of through extending apertures arranged across the second facing layer and non-apertured regions surrounding the apertures;

wherein the bodyside surface of the wound dressing consists the proximal surfaces of the first and second facing layers;

wherein the second facing layer is composed of a skin adherent hydrophobic silicone gel compound, the thickness of the non-apertured regions consisting the silicone gel compound.

Claim 13. (Cancelled)

Claim 14. (Original) The wound dressing according to claim 12, wherein the border portion of the backing layer is substantially parallel with the distal surface of the absorbent core.

Claim 15. (Original) The wound dressing according to claim 12, wherein the border portion of the backing layer includes at least two opposed elongate sections, each opposed elongate section extending from a corresponding side of the absorbent core.

Claim 16. (Previously Presented) The wound dressing according to claim 12, wherein the first facing layer is a pressure sensitive adhesive.

Claim 17. (Cancelled)

Claim 18. (Previously Presented) The wound dressing according to claim 12, wherein the first facing layer is sufficiently porous so as not to occlude moisture transmission through the backing layer.

Claim 19. (Previously Presented) The wound dressing according to claim 12, wherein the first facing layer has greater skin adherence properties than the second facing layer.

Claim 20. (Previously Presented) The wound dressing according to claim 12, wherein the peripheral edges of the absorbent core have a bevel extending downwardly and inwardly towards a central axis thereof from the distal surface to the proximal surface thereof.

Claim 21. (Cancelled)

Claim 22. (Cancelled)

Claim 23. (Cancelled)

Claim 24. (New) A wound dressing having opposed outermost backside and bodyside surfaces, the bodyside surface being generally planar and defines the outermost surface on a proximal side of the dressing intended to be directly placed adjacent a wound surface, the dressing comprising:

a polymeric-foam based absorbent core defining opposed proximal and distal surfaces, the distal surface including a central portion and a border portion;

a liquid impervious, vapor permeable backing layer defining opposed proximal and distal surfaces, the backing layer defining a central portion wherein the proximal surface of the backing layer in the central portion thereof extends over the absorbent core, the backing layer defining a border portion extending beyond and surrounding peripheral edges of the absorbent core, the distal surface of the backing layer defining the backside surface of the wound dressing;

the backing layer carrying a skin adherent adhesive along the proximal surface of the border portion thereof, the skin adherent adhesive defining a portion of the bodyside surface of the wound dressing; and

a skin-adhering hydrophobic silicone-based facing layer directly bonded to the proximal surface of the absorbent core, a proximal surface of the facing layer defining a portion of the bodyside surface of the wound dressing, the border portion of the backing layer adjacent to and surrounding peripheral edges of the facing layer, the facing layer defining a grid pattern of through-extending apertures arranged across the facing layer and non-apertured regions surrounding the apertures, the thickness of the non-apertured regions consisting the silicone-based compound;

wherein the bodyside surface of the wound dressing is continuously flat along its entirety.

Claim 25 (New). The wound dressing according to claim 24, wherein the skin adherent adhesive has greater skin tackiness than the facing layer.

Claim 26 (New). The wound dressing according to claim 24, wherein the entirety of the proximal surface of the backing layer includes the skin adherent adhesive thereby extending across the central and border portions thereof.

Claim 27 (New). The wound dressing according to claim 24, wherein the border portion of the backing layer includes at least two opposed elongate sections, each opposed elongate section extending from a corresponding side of the absorbent core.

Claim 28 (New). The wound dressing according to claim 24, wherein the bodyside surface of the wound dressing consists the skin adherent adhesive carried by the border portion of the backing layer, and the facing layer.